Hokusou Fuuunden - Record of Northern Song Affairs

北宋風雲伝

一

滝口琳々

PRINCESS COMICS

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〈プリンセスGOLD掲載〉

北宋風雲伝

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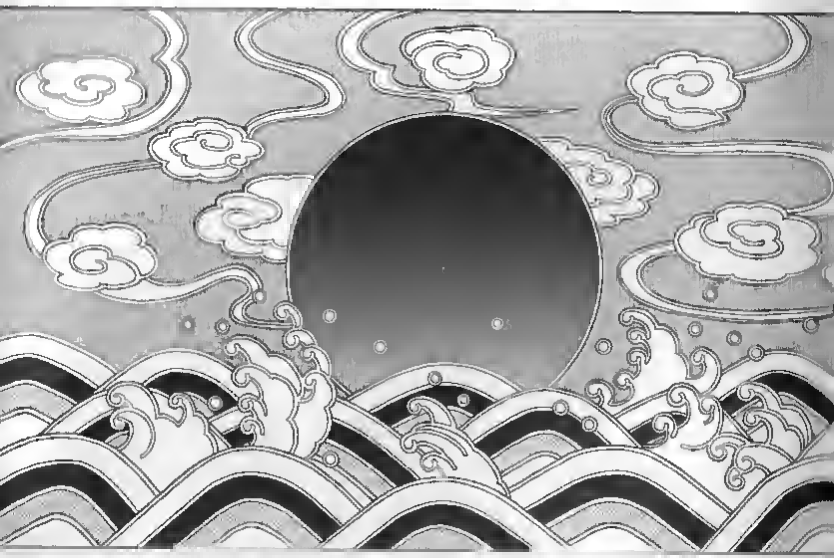

滝口琳々
Lingling Takiguchi

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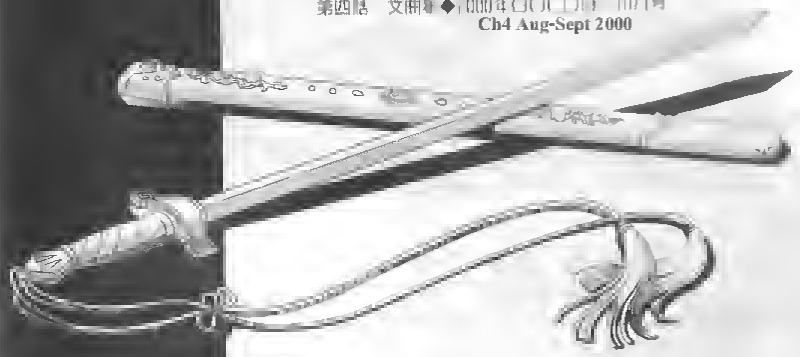
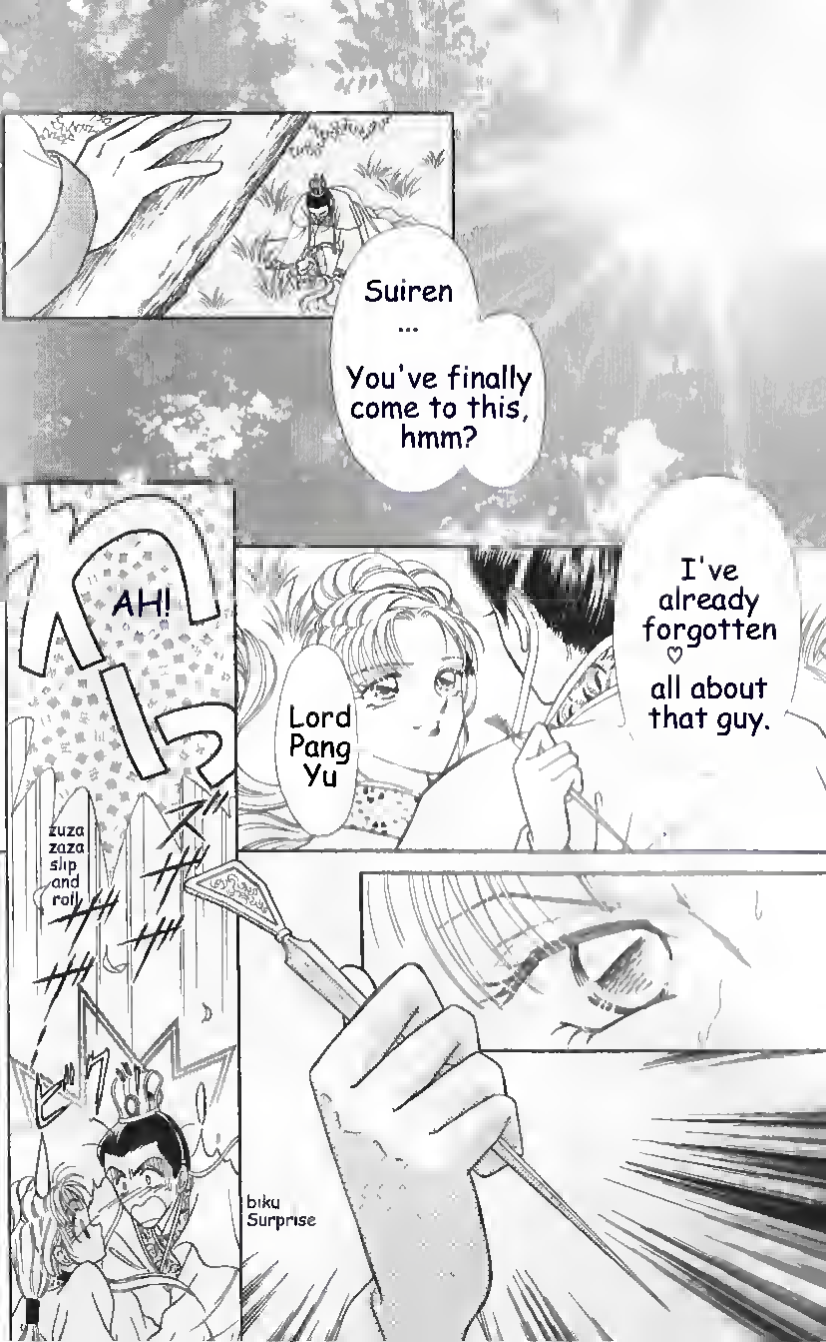
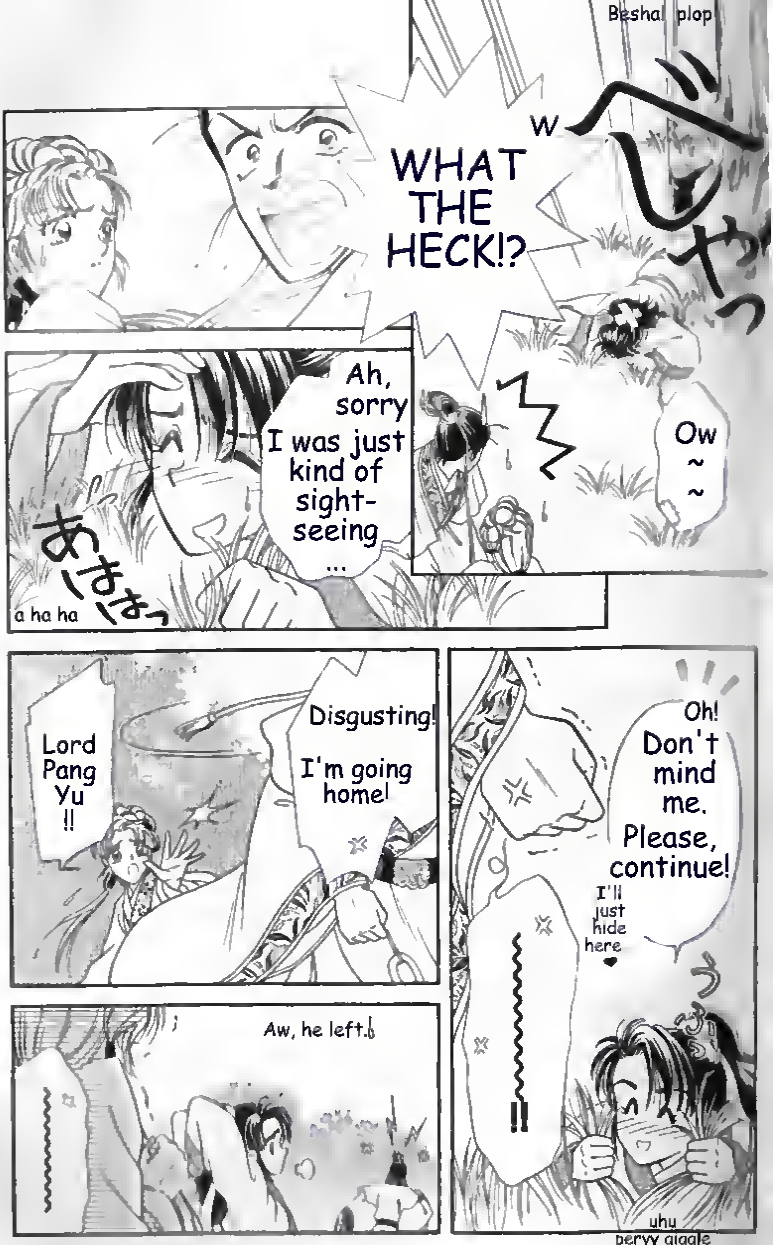
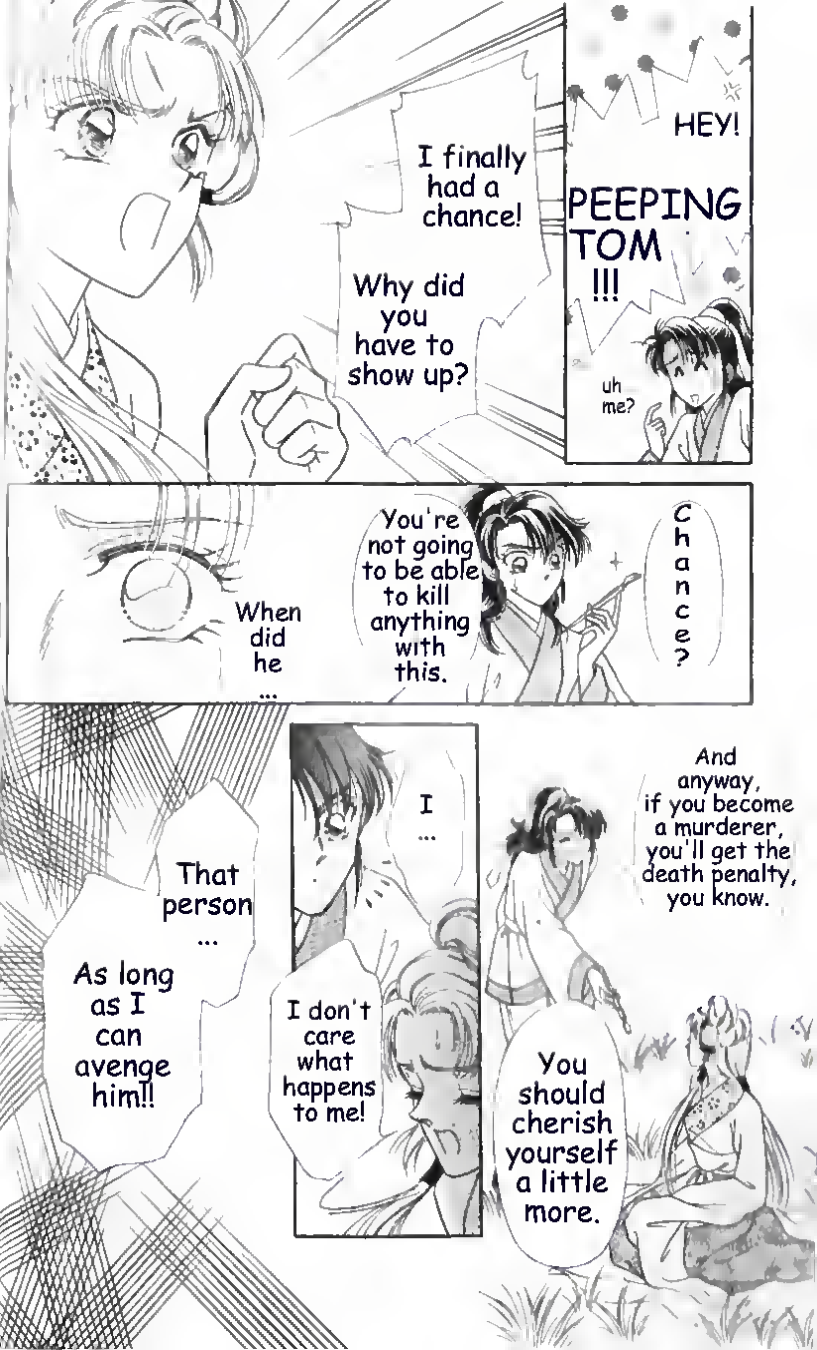


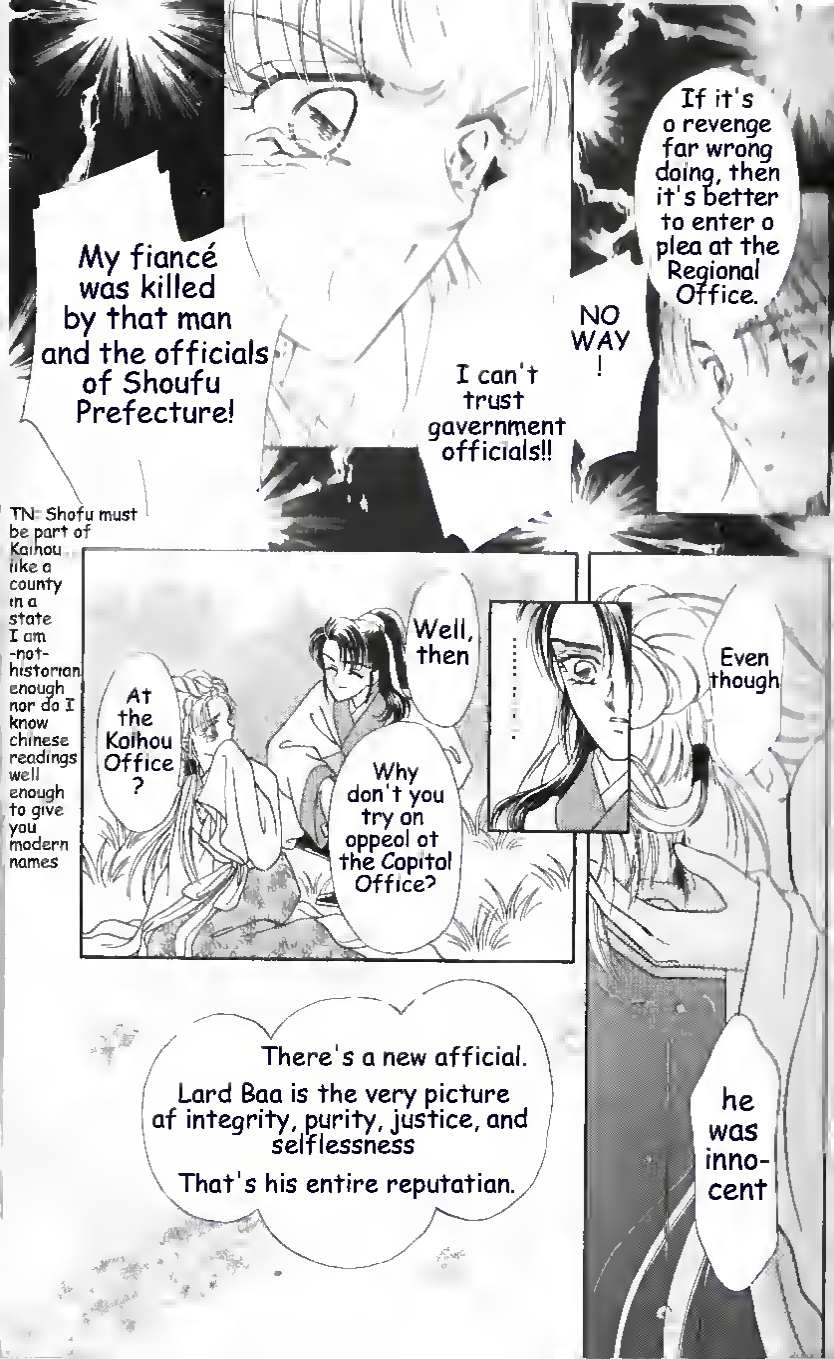
China
Northern Song Dynasty
(960 - 1127)
Sign: Kaihoufu or Kaihou regional Office
TN:Building name reads right to left b/c this is pre-European influence.)
開封府
gata gata banging shutters
The wind ...
is really making a fuss tonight.
Shubo (Clerk) Gongson Ce
TN: Shubo are more than just recorders...they also are advisors to the Justice they are assigned to. You'll see that in his duties
No ...
that's not the wind.
That sound is the cry of the dead
Kaihoufuin (Director/Justice of Kaihou Regional Office) Bao Zheng
patan sets down

Bou_ (sudden lighting of a flame)
Gii_ (sliding door sound)
huh ?
gata_chair falling over/sudden stand up
G- Ghost !?
B- Lord Bao !?
Lord Seishu, please help
... help ...
What is your name ?
Why are you wandering this world?

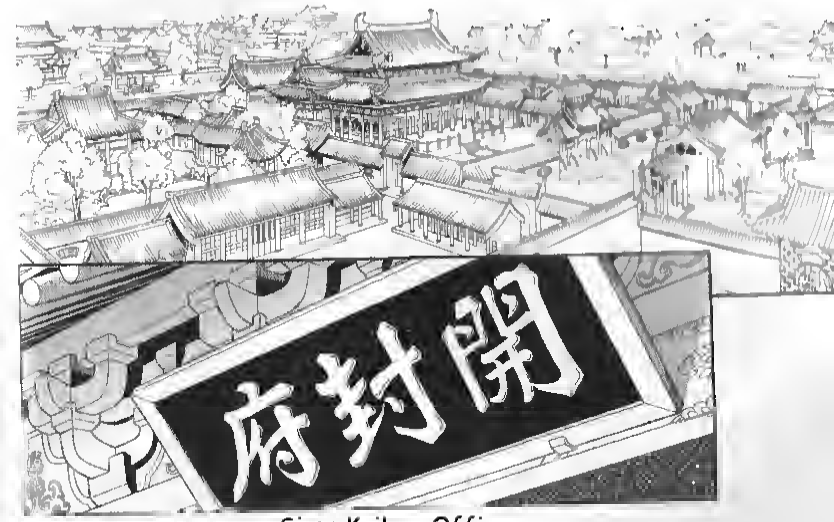

Suiren
...
You've finally come to this, hmm?
I've already forgotten ♡ all about that guy.
Lord Pang Yu
AH!
zuza zaza slip and roll
biku
Surprise


Beshal plop
WHAT THE HECK!?
Ow ~ ~
Ah, sorry I was just kind of sight-seeing ...
a ha ha
Lord Pang Yu !!
Disgusting! I'm going home!
Oh! Don't mind me. Please, continue!
I'll just hide here
!!
Aw, he left.
uhu pervy giggle


I finally had a chance!
Why did you have to show up?
HEY!
PEEPING TOM !!!
uh me?
When did he ...
You're not going to be able to kill anything with this.
Chance?
That person ...
As long as I can avenge him!!
I ...
I don't care what happens to me!
You should cherish yourself a little more.
And anyway, if you become a murderer, you'll get the death penalty, you know.


My fiancé was killed by that man and the officials of Shoufu Prefecture!
I can't trust gavernment officials!!
NO WAY !
If it's o revenge far wrong doing, then it's better to enter o plea at the Regional Office.
TN: Shofu must be part of Kaihou like a county in a state I am -not- historian enough nor do I know chinese readings well enough to give you modern names
At the Koihou Office ?
Well, then
Why don't you try on oppeol ot the Capitol Office?
.....
Even though
he was inno-cent
There's a new afficial.
Lard Baa is the very picture af integrity, purity, justice, and selflessness
That's his entire reputatian.

If I can use an official with integrity
Blue Sky Bao?
Among us commoners he's often fondly called "Blue Sky Bao."
If he's really like they say...
Maybe his regret can finally be cleared away....



Sign: Kaihou Office

This person ...
Blue Sky Bao ?
ゴクッ
goku (gulp)
He's a really scary-looking person ...
I live in Shoufu Prefecture.
My name is Ka Suiren.
明廉正公
Grand Tutor Pang's amorous son, Pang Yu, often approached me.
I had a fiancé called Kakuei,
However--

His title in Japanese is Taishi/Daishi -
(author note: a rank/job given by the Emperor to high ranking subjects. It's a job with high prestige.)
TN: This is one of the top three civil seats in the entire dynasty. It actually translates as Grand Tutor, which doesn't sound nearly as cool as the other two titles: Grand Preceptor and Grand Defender.

He said and left.
You'll see. You'll be mine, whatever the cost.
I'm definately not going to give up.
Ban (slam)
Of course, I refused him.
And then..
Then, a few days later ...
Wait a minute! What are you doing?
Search everything!
It's this house!
wara wara (running about)
Kakuei... You stole Lord Pang Yu's hougyoku, didn't you?
No way ...
Isn't there some kind of mistake ...
tn like king ball? you'll see it in a sec

Here it is!
tn: See? Ball thingie
Ka ku ei ..
Don't move!
We have proof.
Let's go to the Government office
However... Even many days later, Kakuei didn't return home.
I'll be back soon.
It's okay.
Because I'm innocent
Let her in.
b u t ...
P l e a s e
Just let me see him!
Please let me see him!
What ?!
She can give her final fare-well.

tn: Torture was pretty common in Imperial China. Accused would often sign confessions rather than suffer the torture, even if it meant they would die for the crime. This was perfectly legal.
Also- Bao wasn't big on torturing people, which was part of his reputation.

The guard looked away for just an instant. In the blink of an eye he managed to hang himself.
He probably couldn't stand the daily torture.
Waaa crying
Kaku-ei!
Why are yau ---
There's no way he *could* have confessed.
This is horrible.
Kakuei was innocent.
!!
Because he did things like stealing far his wedding fund...
Stupid man.
I didn't think I'd get ta meet yau here.
I came here as a witness far the caurt, but
Hurry up and farget abaut that thief. Why dan't yau came and jain my estate?
Yau paar thing.
It must be very difficult.
But yau're still young ...
Why ...
Why are yau here?
Ni-leer

Right then, I understood everything.
I'm quite well off. I'll let you live with me.
Hand in hand with the officials he framed Kakuei with a crime and while he was in prison drove him to suicide.
It was all part of Pang Yu's plan.
biku surprise
OUT-RAG-OUS!
Lord Baol
Please punish him!
If you deign to appeal a case about His Majesty's younger brother--
If there is even a breath of deceit, you won't escape the Death Penalty.
His father, Grand Tutor Pang, is one of His Majesty's most loyal advisors.
The Marquis of Anle, Sir Pang Yu is the younger brother of His Majesty's Concubine Pang Kihi.

*TN: the title indicated here is not in my dictionaries

Between discussion from other readers and information from later stones, I decided that Kihi's not actually a queen, but a favored Concubine.

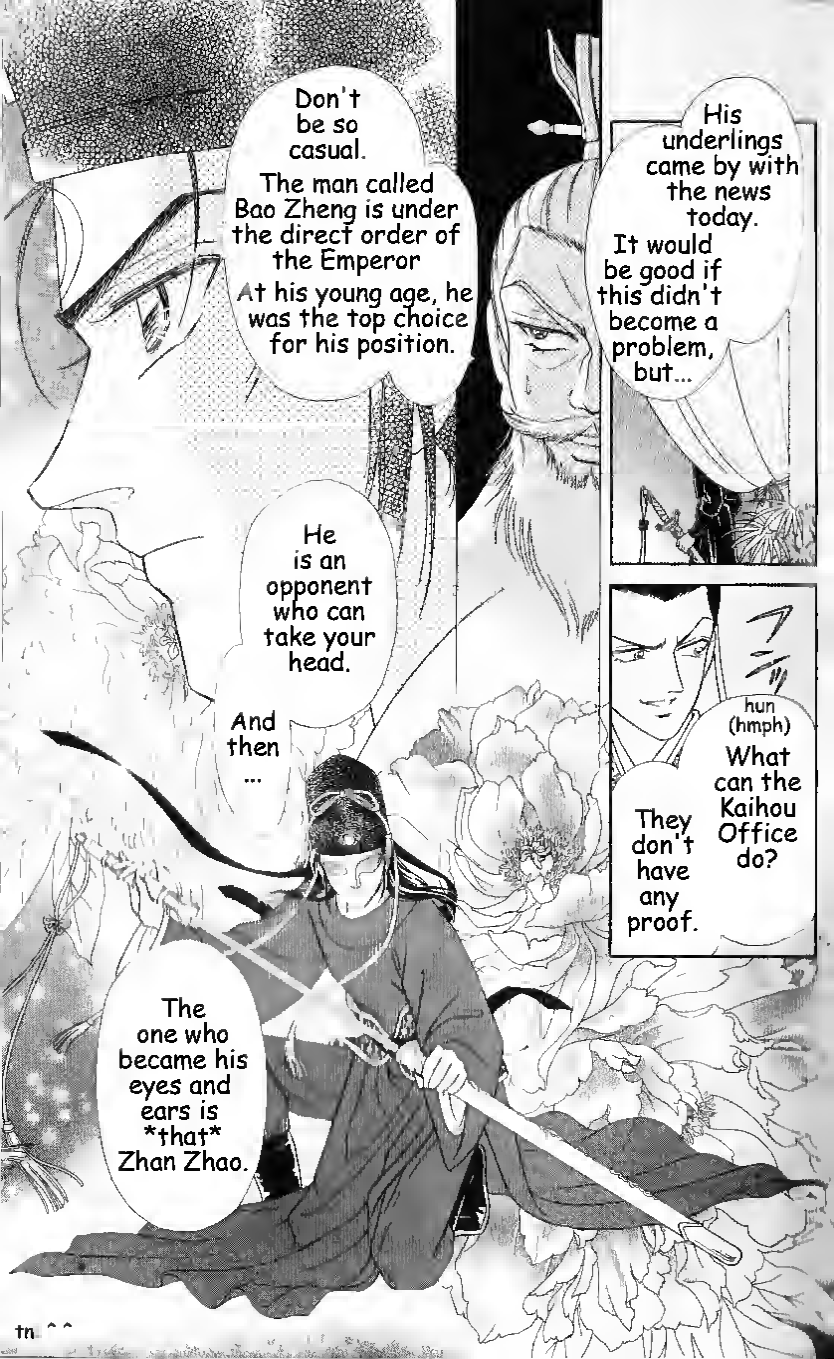
I'm not lying!
Proof?
Well then, do you have any proof of what you are saying?
With no proof just your own conjecture, there's no woy to bring Morquis Pong to triol!
This time you con't chorge him with onything, so hurry up ond leove!
Are you soying we commoners hove to endure onything thot is done to us?
... then ...
gyu squeeze
Isn't it still o crime when government officials ond other people with power breok the low?!
Insolent !!
Ban (slam)

I wos o fool to rely on an Officiol!
Even though you ore colled "Blue Sky," in the end, even you, with oll your power, you con't oppose onyone!
Do! - slam
All you Govern-ment Officiols are the some!
.... I under-stand ...
sign kousei ren mei Fairness Honesty clear
It's not like I meant to bully her
she was crying, you know
You bullied her with such a scory face...
Poor thing ...
yeoh ...
Pong Yu is Grand Tutor Pang's only son.
He'll be hord to orrest, unless you cotch him red-handed, you mean.
Even though it is the truth, if we con somehow oppeol
Pong Yu ... is a... trouble-some oppo-nent.

Here
Zhan Zhao
Yes, sir.
Find aut if there are ather victims.
Sart thraugh all af Pang Yu's affairs.
Under-staad.
And --- dan't take your eyes aff af that young lady.
suku (rise quickly)
Tamarraw we will praceed ta Shaubu Prefecture and examine Kakuei's bady.
Make the preparatians at ance!!
Yes, sir!
Ma Han !
Wang Chaa !
tn Henchmen! Whee!
Zhao Hu !
Zhang Long !
tn These guys are guards as much as they assist in gathering information. Like Boo, they are usually treated as incorruptible

gyo (? grab on?)
Those with power and officials ...
I HATE all of them!!
uwaaa crying
Miss Suiren! How did it go?
What part of him is 'Blue Sky"?!
YOU LAIR!
niko (smile)
Really ?
ok?
look over stare
Don't cry. We'll partner up to get your vengenace.
stare
u u (sobbing)
We have to work together
Commoners are commoners alike!

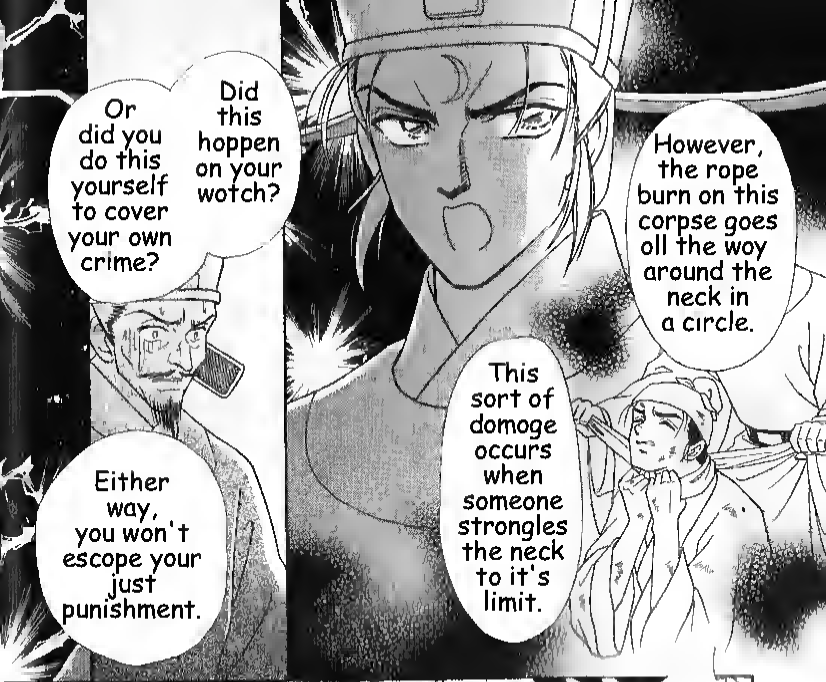
You colled for me, fother?
You haven't mode thot one womon yours, yet, have you?
You ...
Grand Tutor Pang Ji
Well, there's been some interfer-ence, but...
... But her heort will soon be ...
If thot's so, then why did she file a complaint ogoinst you at the Koihou Office?
No woy --- !?
Don Bang


His underlings came by with the news today.
It would be good if this didn't become a problem, but...
hun (hmph)
What can the Kaihou Office do?
They don't have any proof.
Don't be so casual.
The man called Bao Zheng is under the direct order of the Emperor
At his young age, he was the top choice for his position.
He is an opponent who can take your head.
And then ...
The one who became his eyes and ears is *that* Zhan Zhao.

tn ^^

Ha
B... but ...
The one the Emperor calls "His King Cat"?
The martial arts master?
Zhan Zhao ... It can't be...
We don't hove anything to fear!
We're relotives of the Emperor.
Aren't they totolly insignificont to you, os o 1st rank?
Those like 3rd ronk Bao Zheng ond 4th rank Zhon Zhoo
No ... this isn't something to worry about.
Just refroin from doing impudent things for awhile.
Understond?
This ... this is horrible

Is what you just said the theory you believe?
We had evidence, but regardless of that, we needed him to acknowledge the crime. He refused. If only....
Yes ...
You can see evidence of the torture pretty much all over his body.
In order to escape torture, it seems he hung himself and broke his neck.
But... For most men if we use just a little torture, they will often admit..
I am not talking about torture!
Y... yes ...
You said that he broke his own neck by hanging himself?
If he had really done so ...
then the mark from the rope should go from his throat to behind his ears.


However, the rope burn on this corpse goes all the way around the neck in a circle.
This sort of damage occurs when someone strangles the neck to it's limit.
Did this happen on your watch?
Or did you do this yourself to cover your own crime?
Either way, you won't escape your just punishment.

gashi roughly

Shall we ....
... discuss thot in further detoil ot the Koihou Office?
We soid we'd work together, whot hoppened I wonder
Though, he seems kind of unreliable and is sort of a weakling.
At the very least, I can trust him mare than the Officials.
But, he doesn't seem like a bad person
Moybe it's weird, but I completely believed thot Peeping Tom
"If you come here, you'll be able to meet her."
Ha (gasp)

Brat? It can't be...
Pang Yu !?
Exactly as that brat said.
No way... Even he betrayed me?
Because you spoke so very much.
In return for the other day, this is going to hurt a little.
You filed a complaint against me?
I trusted him!
That sort of thing is useless.
Let me teach you all about it.
No..!!

zuru -
'inconclusive but unwanted situation' also a dragging noise

It would have saved me a lot of trouble to do it this way.
fu fu fu evil laugh
From the start I should have done what I did with the other women
No
Someone help me!
N~ N~ gagged sounds
Ha Gasp
Sul

My lord!
Someone! There's an intruder!
cha
hyu whoosh
This situation ...
you aren't going to be able to talk yourself out of.
hita steady and sharp

Kin (swords clashing)
I have no idea who he is but
... he's here to help me?
What are you doing?
Hurry up and just kill him!
This person is really strong ...
Who ...!?

bas-
tard
Who
the
heck
are
you?
byuu whoos)
pita - exactly/suddenly
sui
It
can't
be
!?
y...
You're
...!

TN: The medallion he holds up is pretty common in period dramas, it's sort of like a badge.

Don drums bonging
tn: drums were sounded to summon the Official and to start court that sort of thing.

明廉正公
The court believes you planned the same for Ka Suiren. You also conspired with officials to frame Kakuei for a crime. Later you deliberately killed him.
Aside from this matter there are 10 cases added to this. The charges are abduction and rape of commoner women.
Lard Bao
Lard Zhan Zhaa
Everything has come to light here.
These crimes are completely unforgivible!
By law, the punishment for these is beheading.
Because of these two men
Finally
His vengence is...

TN: Bao had three beheading devices (satsu sounds better :p) for different ranks. The Dragon satsu was used to behead members of the royal family. I could say guillotine, but that word has a very specific image associated with it, and a satsu is a 'lever-knife.' You'll see. >>

Open the Dragon Head Satsu!
B... Bao Zheng ...
Can you... Do you really think you can kill me?
hu laugh
I wonder whot would hoppen if my father and older sister were to become your enemies? There's no woy you don't understond
No way ...
goku gulp
He's really going to ...!?
gashi roughly
Giii

gatan (chair clacking from standing up fast)
Announcing the arrival of Grand Tutor Pang!
Father, please help me!
Father !!
With just the rank of Kaihou Office Justice ... You think you can judge my son!! *
Bao Zheng
You bast-ard

*tn- My guess on the Court Japanese in the first release was good. XD I feel obligated to point out that Pang doesn't complete the sentence but that doesn't make sense in English

I judge criminals. What if I were to say I also have His Majesty's blessing in this. This is the true focus of my job.
And I wonder what would happen to you if I opposed you? Do you understand?
At any time, I could have your head!
That would be a problem.
hu laugh
ahh...
Even though Pang Yu's crimes finally came to light...
In the end, the judge doesn't have the power to try the case. Is that what you are saying?
pon tap

*** Author's note (in brief) Tonkei inkstones were really precious during this era, it was very high quality and was probably one of the most sought-after items in trade. This is a substantial bribe.
明廉正公
If I were ta allaw a threat ta strain my awn judgement ...
... then that alsa wauld mean that I da nat have the qualificatians far a place like this.
Haw-ever ...
It's akay
Because that persan is "Blue Sky"
Lard Zhan Zhaa
If that were the case, I wauld want remaved fram this pasitian!
So we have moved from threats to sweet talk and bribes?
Bribery is also a crime, didn't you know?
If my son were to be saved from this situation, then I'd be happy to speak with the Emperor on your behalf so you can get a better position
Also, I have a Tankei inkstone* I'd be willing to ...
gu geh
Baa Zheng, dan't get so angry

He's my only precious heir.
He's my one and only son.
Bao ... I beg you.
Just this once, overlook this.
The murdered Kakuei was the same. He was Ka Suiren's one and only fiance.
Lord Bao !!
This will not happen a second time.
!!
Do not measure that nameless commoner and my son as if they were equals!
The meosure of the importonce of o life is no different between us and commoners!

If you have broken the law, it does not matter who you are. I do not forgive. I judge.
To think, among the court officials there are some like this...
You had best remember this. Neither threats nor bribes have any power over me, this Bao Zheng.
su

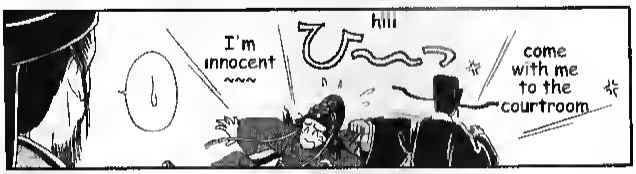
tn: the kanji stand for "law" or "decree" In period Chinese dramas, the judge throws those when they announce a punishment (not just death)

Death!
(or "kill him")

やめろおおお！
yamerooo
Stoooop!
It's alright I was able to clear away the disgrace, and I was able to get my revenge.
In order to catch Pang Yu, I told him where you were. I'm sorry for letting you be scared.

That was nat what he wanted.
He was ...
huh?
Please dan't let her cammit a crime
I dan't want her ta ruin her life far my sake
When the spirit first appeared, he was uncertain.
He cauld anly think abaut yau.
Laaking at him warrying sa much, we thaught we'd lend him a little help.
!!
Sa, then, meeting Lard Zhan Zhaa and everything ...
wasn't just a cain-cidence ?

If there were more people like Lord Bao among the officials...
Among the common people, there isn't much encouragement right now
Lord Bao
It was all Lord Bao's orders ♡
I'd really like to say thank you.
suto
Be happy for Kakuei, too.
Yes!
Lord Zhan Zhao



第一話　包青天／完

End chapter 1